

Your Opportunity to Comment

The FTC wants your opinions about the proposed changes to the Telemarketing Sales Rule, including its proposal to create a national "do not call" registry. You can get a copy of the FTC's proposal at www.ftc.gov. Submit your comments by sending an email to tsr@ftc.gov or by writing to the Office of the Secretary, Room 159, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Comments are due to the FTC by March 29, 2002.

All comments that the FTC receives on the proposed amendments to the Telemarketing Sales Rule will be posted on the FTC website. No email addresses or phone numbers of individual commenters will be posted.

In addition to general comments on the proposed TSR changes, the FTC is interested in your comments on the following questions:

- How long should a telephone number remain on the national "do not call" registry?
Should be permanent until rescinded in writing
- Who should be permitted to request that a telephone number be placed on the "do not call" registry? Should requests from the line subscriber's spouse or adult child be permitted? Should third parties (outside the FTC) be permitted to collect and forward requests to be put on the "do not call" registry? *Spouse and adult child only if authorized by line subscriber. Collection/forward requests FTC only.*
- What security measures are appropriate and necessary to ensure that only those people who want to place their telephone numbers on the "do not call" registry can do so? Should consumers be able to verify that their numbers have been placed on the registry? If so, how?
- Should the "do not call" registry be an "all or nothing" option or should it instead allow consumers to specify the days or time of day that they are willing to accept telemarketing calls? *Some consumers may want this option. Others could still opt-out entirely.*
- The proposed rule would permit consumers or donors who place their name and telephone number on the "do not call" registry to provide express verifiable authorization to specific sellers or organizations to make calls to them. How will this requirement affect those entities with which a consumer or donor has a pre-existing relationship?

How to Reduce Unwanted Telemarketing Calls Now

If the FTC decides to adopt the proposal and implement a national "do not call" registry, it will be months before it takes effect. However, there are steps you can take right now to reduce the number of unwanted telemarketing calls that you receive.

1. Ask companies that call you to put you on their company-specific "do not call" list. Existing regulations by both the FTC and the FCC prohibit a telemarketer from calling you after you have asked them to stop calling you.
2. Register with a state "do not call" list: Many states offer "do not call" lists for residents of that state. Rules for how to put your name and number on the list and which telemarketers are covered vary. More information on state "do not call" lists is available from the following phone numbers and websites.

Alabama

Kentucky.